

REMARKS

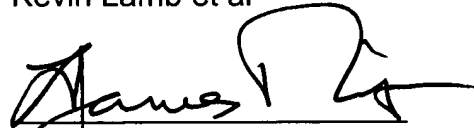
Applicant filed the subject application with claims 1-16, consisting of independent claim 1 with associated dependent claims 8-9 and independent claim 10 with associated dependent claims 11-16.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1-9 were allowed, whereas claims 10-14 were rejected. Applicant presumes that claims 15 and 16 were also rejected.

Applicant has directed the cancellation of claims 10-16, without prejudice. As a consequence, only the allowed claims 1-9 remain under consideration. Inasmuch as all of these claims have been allowed, the next step should be the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lamb et al



L. James Ristas
Registration No. 28,663
Alix, Yale & Ristas, LLP
Attorney for Applicant

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750 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103-2721
Our Ref: ROSTRA/102/US
LJR/ds

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